

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

Why Its Officials Are Worried by the Underground Railway.

Officials of the Bank of England are said to be worried for the safety of the vaults of the world's greatest institution of finance. At a recent meeting of the bank directors it was suggested that some brave but wicked person might set off a quantity of explosives in the bank station, wrecking the foundations of the stately buildings above and sending the bars of bullion and the streams of gold coin leaping out on to the station platform. The feasibility of this scheme has been conceded by the bank governor. It is figured, however, that the "tube" is a little too deep at this point. To reach the bullion vaults of the bank the conspirators would have to drive a shaft nearly a hundred feet, and then they would face a mass of concrete, thick masonry and steel. At one time the Bank of England was the object of a conspiracy. From a church tower close by the bank was bombarded. Afterward the authorities had the church and its threatening tower destroyed. Officials of the bank do not like the tunnel going on in the clay beneath their foundations. The constant pumping of water has affected even the solidity of the clay, and from this cause the walls which are within the three acres comprised within the bank's precincts has dried up.

Those three acres are valued at about \$5,000,000 each, and the treasures within them are guarded in fitting fashion. On either side of the main entrance to the bank are two small glass houses. In one reposes a stately beadle. In the other are two wide-awake detectives. Other detectives are in and out of the rooms, but always unobtrusively. At night the police force is a heavy one. Every evening a compact body of men commanded by a lieutenant, including two sergeants, two drummers, a bugler and thirty privates, marches from Wellington barracks to the bank. They are in full marching order, and before they enter the technical limits of "the city" exercise that privilege of the guards of fixing bayonets. They are on duty for twelve hours, and but for the recurrent spells of sentry-go have an easy time.

Officials of the bank provide moderate refreshments for these guards. In the guardroom, which is of regulation pattern, are the usual shelf and blanket, sufficient accommodation for a soldier's intermittent dozing when on duty of this kind. The officer has a suit of rooms at his service—the dining room of paneled oak, a neat bedroom and a bathroom. There is hidden away in the center of the bank one of the most pleasant gardens in London, where an after-dinner stroll may be enjoyed on a summer evening to the full, while the roar of the great metropolis around has died away to inarticulate murmurs.—Chicago News.

Small Trains on English Railways.

A gentleman was standing on the towering deck of the Cedric last summer when she came alongside the dock at Liverpool. By his side was a huge Californian who was making his first European trip and was full of curiosity. He looked far down from the upper deck to the little train of coaches that was waiting to carry the passengers up to London and asked what they might be. He was told that it was the special train to London.

"Do people travel in those things here?" the big Californian said. "Why, when I was a boy I used to play with trains like that."

The comparison was not inapt. As late as the year 1900 the average freight train load in England was but fifty tons—that is to say, the average train load was only equal to the capacity of one of our modern freight cars. There has been some improvement since then, and there is now a marked tendency toward heavier equipment, but it all seems like toy equipment when compared with our own heavy trains.—Scraper's Magazine.

Number of Shoe Laces Used.

"Some of the apparently most trivial things in this world are the most necessary things, and fortunes are made in manufacturing them," said Ralph L. Jenkins.

"Take the lace eyes of shoes, for instance. The average person never gives them a thought, but they are indispensable to our footwear, and there are factories that devote themselves exclusively to making them. Did you ever stop to think how many of those little things are used every year?"

"On the basis of the population of the United States being 80,000,000, this country uses more than 3,000,000,000 of lace eyes and hooks a year. Every man, woman and child will wear out on an average two pairs of shoes in twelve months. The majority of people have two feet, and there are twenty eyes and hooks in each shoe. Use your arithmetic and see what the total is. It foots up to 2,000,000 more than 3,000,000,000."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Why the Baby Dies.

In a British blue book recently published in an official report dealing with physical deterioration is the following testimony by a lady witness, Miss Dowling, before the commission. She is speaking of the baby who is really neglected, whether willfully or not I do not know. But when the mother dies the baby is nearly always buried with her.

"Do you mean buried alive, or is it dead?"

"No; it is allowed to die. It is not particularly wanted, probably, and they do not know what to do with it."

Iceland Mail.

When the wind blows from the south and one of the islanders of south Iceland wishes to communicate with the mainland he puts his letters into a well corked bottle, and to insure their delivery he incloses at the same time a plug of twist tobacco or a cigar. The wind speedily impels the bottle to the shore of the mother island, where people are generally on the lookout.

How She Knew.

Mrs. Jenkins—The moment he kissed me I knew he had been drinking. Mrs. Supple—You mean you smelled his breath? Mrs. Jenkins—I mean that Mr. Jenkins never kisses me except when he has been drinking.

Unpleasant Criticism.

Mrs. De Style (exhibiting picture)—You know, my daughter paints from nature. Critic—Far from it, it seems—New York Times.

Quite Offhand.

Standard—Did that deaf mute orator make a set speech? Doyle—No. He spoke offhand.—Cleveland Leader.

THE POSTAGE STAMP

HOW IT IS MADE BY UNCLE SAM'S EXPERT WORKMEN.

The Manufacturing Process From the Engraving of the Steel Die to the Finished Gummed, Pressed and Perforated Printed Sheet.

The first mechanical process in the manufacture of a postage stamp is the cutting, or engraving, of the die. This is a piece of steel of the finest quality, on the polished surface of which a man slowly and patiently cuts, line by line, the portrait or other emblem which has been adopted for this particular stamp. A steel engraving is what is called an incised plate—that is, every line which is to show in the finished print is cut into the surface instead of being left in relief, as in wood engraving.

The die which the engraver cuts is a "negative"; in other words, a reversal of the design which the stamp will show. The reason for this soon becomes apparent.

When the die is finished and proofs show it to be satisfactory it is hardened and fixed in the bed of a powerful press. Over it is then passed a steel roller, the circumference of which is applied, so that every line on the surface of the die is impressed upon the surface of the roller as many times as the circumference of the roller is larger than the area of the die. In this way four perfect copies of the die are reproduced on the roller, but reversed. Each of these impressions is a "positive."

This roller is now hardened in turn in order that it may transmit the impressions once, this time to the plate from which the actual printing is to be made. This plate is also of steel. The size is sufficient to print a whole sheet of stamps—from 200 to 300—at a single impression.

Into the surface of this plate the impression on the roller is forced by great pressure, once for each stamp in the subsequent sheet, and then the plate is hardened. These impressions are negatives, so that the prints from them—the stamps themselves—will be positives.

The reason for all this preliminary work is most interesting. In the first place, printing could not be done from a single die because of the vast quantities of stamps required. In the second place, it could not be done from the roller, because on that the lines are in relief instead of being incised, and in the third place, it would not be feasible to have several dies or a large number of them engraved, both because the expense would be prohibitive and because no two would then be absolutely alike. The present system makes it certain that every stamp of a certain lot is exactly like every other of the same lot—a great safeguard against counterfeiting.

When three printing plates have been made they are all fastened to the bed of a special printing press. When the machinery is started the first plate is inked, then automatically wiped until it is like a mirror. The wiping removes all the ink except what clings in the lines of the 200 duplicate engravings which dot the surface.

Over the plate is laid a sheet of dampened paper, the plate is slightly warmed in order to permit the ink to swell, and heavy pressure is applied. Meanwhile the second plate is receiving its ink, and then the third comes into play, so that, although all three are on the same press, each is at a given moment undergoing a different process from either of the other two. This has wrought a great saving of time over the old process of printing by hand. When the printing machine is dry they go to the gumming machine, in which they pass between a dry roller on one side and one moistened with mullage on the other. From these rollers they are cast out, wet side up, upon an endless web, which carries them through a steam heated box.

They come out dry, ready for the perforations, which permit them to be torn apart easily. These are very easily made by passing the sheets between one cylinder studded with steel pins and another perforated with holes to match the pins. The two together act like the jaws of a conductor's punch.

The last process is pressing the sheets by hydraulic power to counteract the tendency to curl, which is imparted by the mullage.

The printing of stamps, like the printing of gold and silver certificates and bank notes, is subject to the most careful and constant inspection.

Every sheet of paper is counted before it is delivered to the printer, and before he goes home at night he must return exactly the same number of sheets, either of perfect stamps or spoiled paper, and no "seconds" or samples are given away to visitors.—Edward Williston Frentz in Youth's Companion.

The Elephant's Eye.

"To my mind two things strike the observer vividly when standing close to wild elephants in their native haunts," writes a traveler. "The one is the gigantic size and the other is comparative smallness. The eye is the expression of the eye. This organ, which is surprisingly small in proportion to the size of the animal and set far back in the head, is of a pale blue color much resembling that of a wall eye in a horse. Even when an elephant is at rest his eye has an uncomfortable cold and sinister look."

The regard one shows economy is like that we show an enemy who is to leave us something at last.—Ebenstone.

David Brainard and Yale.

In the course of a talk on the life of David Brainard at Longwood the story of his expulsion from Yale college came out. Brainard lived in the time of the evangelist Jonathan Edwards and "the great awakening," with which both men were identified. Brainard entered Yale in 1739 and was expelled in his junior year after being found guilty on the charge of having found currency in the statement that a certain tutor had no more religion than a chair.

Consoling.

He—So your father thought I wanted to marry you for your money? What did you say? She—I persuaded him that you didn't, and then he said it was the case you hadn't any sense.—Detroit Journal.

The Inventor of Today.

The inventor is no longer invested with the pathos and romance of unrequited patience, but is the man of all others who leaps to eminence and fortune.—St. Louis Republic.

A B C'S IN JAMAICA.

What Visitors Found Children Reciting on That Island.

Way back in the heart of Jamaica we found a tiny schoolhouse, and, having a desire to visit a native school, we descended from our open carriage and rapped upon the door.

Just then the loud clanging of a deep-toned bell in a tree near by almost startled us from the steps, and then out dashed a troop of children of all ages and colors of complexion from a light shade of tan to a dusky black.

It was recess, we were told by the pleasant faced colored man who proved to be the teacher and who showed us into the schoolroom and after much searching found a couple of empty chairs for us to sit upon. The room was partly filled with long benches, with a continuous line of desks in front of them. After a short time the boys and girls trooped in to take their accustomed seats, at the ringing of the great bell in the tree.

As there was no class which we desired to hear more than another the smallest children were told to repeat the alphabet. This they did while sitting on their hard seats.

Here is their alphabet word for word, as afterward procured from a native lawyer, for we could not understand fully every word as the children pronounced them:

A is for Assanoo, look how him tan;
B is for Bucker, very bad man;
C is for Cudger, name Maria;
D is for Duper, him eyes shine like fire;
E is for Eel, him live in the ferry;
F is for Fiddle, him play so sweet and merry;
G is for Gubnor, him live in king house;
H is for Harber, place poor, like church mouse;
I is for Iddem, him tipple 'pon cheese;
J is for John Crow, him have peel head;
K is for Kallao, sweet when him bleed;
L is for Lizard, him have a green tail;
M is for Monkey, look 'pon him face;
N is for Nanna, him hat trim with lace;
O is for Elephant, look on him mount;
P is for Patoek (owl), at night him come out;
Q is for Quattle (piece of money), "hog church mouse";
R is for Ratta, him tipple 'pon cheese;
S is for Snake, him lib in the grass;
T is for Toodle, him forward and fast;
U is for Uncle, please tell him "howdy";
V is for Vervine, make very good tea;
W is for Wally, make very good tea;
X is for Xee, him mend his net;
Z is for Zedee, mending his net.

This achievement caused the face of the teacher to shine gloriously.—New York Tribune.

Opening the Simpson Tunnel.

On April 2 the first trains ran through the Simpson tunnel. Engineer Brandau, who had directed the work on the tunnel, took the train in from the Italian side and reached the front door which had been erected to stop a flow of hot water and which still kept the two sections asunder. Presently the train from the Swiss end was heard beyond the door. By means of hammering the two parties communicated with each other, and in a few minutes the door was knocked down and the tunnel was open. Mr. Rosemund, the engineer in charge of the work on the Swiss side, shook hands with Mr. Brandau. Bands played the Swiss anthem and the Italian royal march. The Italian bishop embraced the Swiss bishop, who then preached a short sermon and asked God's blessing on the tunnel and all the human good will and good labor which it represents. This was a dramatic and devout inauguration of a great work in which the whole world is interested. The formal opening of the tunnel will not occur for some months.—Youth's Companion.

An Aid to Matrimony.

James Whitcomb Riley says that the most amusing "character" that ever came within his personal observation was a Squire Roberts of Lapeer, Mich. Although the squire was, according to the letter heads on his stationery, a justice of the peace, he made additional claims to fame that he advertised himself as "the original and only exclusively matrimonial Gretina Green magistrate." Also the busy squire announced on his stationery that his office was in the First National Bank building, "or wherever most convenient to swains," and he made the further assertion that "a fine line of high grade bridesmaids and groomsmen" were "constantly on hand to assist at the services." Mr. Riley adds that the following were also selections from the remarkable letter head circulated by Squire Roberts: "Marriages solemnized promptly, accurately and eloquently. Plain ceremony, legal fee. Eloquence a specialty."

Rudyard Kipling.

"Mr. Kipling," writes a fellow passenger to Cape Town with him, "is a small, well knit man with a finely shaped head and a keen, happy face, full of that alertness which one would naturally anticipate from his writings. He has a thick brown mustache, very slightly touched with gray, and heavy dark eyebrows, and he always wears gold rimmed spectacles. He dresses comfortably and neatly and is guilty of none of those extravagant untidinesses usually indulged in by distinguished poets and artists. He did not display a great deal of energy on board. Once or twice he was seen playing rubber quills with Mrs. Kipling. More often he was pacing the deck, talking or sitting quietly reading. Sometimes he wrote in the smoking room."

A Pertinent Question.

Senator Beveridge was describing a precocious little girl.

"She showed her precocity the other day," he said, "by a question that she asked me."

"I had said to her in the course of an examination in mental arithmetic: 'How old would a person be who was born in 1861?'"

"She smiled and asked: 'Was the person a man or a woman?'"

Cemetery Notice.

Persons in Accomac and adjoining counties wishing to mark the grave of a relative or friend with a monument or headstone.

Monument

in Marble or Polished Granite, can now do so at a very small outlay as we keep in stock a large collection of finished work of modern designs of the best workmanship and at the very lowest prices.

115 N. Liberty St. near Lexington also 314 S. Charles St.

Gaddess Brothers.

Established Seventy-Five Years.

Baltimore, Md.

Sidney Prince,

220i,

Will make the season of 1905 at the Farm, and at Keller, Va. Will take 10 mares at Keller. Only very few places left on home book.

Fee \$35.00 to insure mare in foal.

Rod Oliver,

36169.

This finely bred and fast colt will make season at Farm. Will accept 2 more outside mares.

Fee \$25.00. \$5.00 rebate for bringing mare to farm.

Moko, Jr.

Brown colt, 16 hands, 1,100 lbs., 4 years this Spring. Sired by Moko, (he by Baron Wilkes, 2:18)—sire of Ferno, 2:05; Mabel, 2:04; and 5 others, full brothers to Bump, 2:04; and Baron D., 2:10.

1st dam Rosa Baron, by Earl Baltic, 2:17, (he by Baron Wilkes, 2:18) sire of 4 in 3:30 list.

2nd dam Rosette, by Axtell, 2:12, sire of 90 in 2:30 list, 5 better than 2:10. Champion 3 year old to high wheel sulky.

3rd dam Minkie, by Director, 2:17, sire of 59 better than 2:30, including Director, 2:05; Direct, 2:04; Nathan Straus, 2:04; Direction, 2:08; and grand-sire of such great ones as Directly, 2:03; Direct Hal, 2:04; John A. McKerron, 2:04, &c.

4th dam Pearl, by Hambletonian 10. Pearl is the dam of Spaniard 2:30; and 3 producing sons.

5th dam—by American Star 14.

The above colt MOKO, JR. will make the season at the farm, limited to 10 mares.

We have above given you our list of his breeding—interested study them. We consider him the strongest, stoutest and most fashionable bred colt in Virginia to-day. The Baron Wilkes family, and especially through his son MOKO, have become to be noted for winning the large colt stakes, as well as trotting on to very low records.

Fee \$25.00. \$5.00 rebate allowed for bringing mare to farm.

In response to several requests, we say, SIDNEY PRINCE will make the 1905 season, beginning as early as possible to get through home work, in upper part of Accomac. Application made either to us or W. A. Hurley, Atlantic, Va. Limited to 25 approved mares.

Floyd Bros.,

Bridgetown, Va.

Thorough-Bred Stallion,

"TOM KENNY."

"Tom Kenny" is a dark bay horse with black points, is by "Inspector B," out of Touch Not." He has a record of 1:38 for a mile and also holds the 1:14-mile record for Brighton Beach Track. He is a grand individual of nice quality and conformation, and with his great racing qualities should prove a successful sire for great roadsters and general purpose horses.

Will make the season at \$20.00 to insure.

For further particulars call on W. C. WEST, Onancock, or G. D. WILKINS, Accomac C. H.

FOR SALE

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Private Contract

—Valuable—

PROPERTY

—ON—

SAXIS ISLAND.

The undersigned offers for sale HIS RESIDENCE or house of PRIVATE ENTERTAINMENT ON SAXIS ISLAND, barn and outbuildings, his STOREHOUSE with an up-to-date STOCK OF GENERAL MERCHANDISE with an established trade, also FOUR OYSTER FARMS in good cultivation and BOAT PROPERTY.

The large residence is used with profit as a home for salesmen and professional men.

My reason for selling is, I expect to go to the city and engage in different business.

For further particulars, call on or address,

Geo. W. Glenn, SAXIS, VA.

Renovated and Opened.

My HOTEL at BLOOMTOWN, VA., is now occupied by Mr. William Harrison Lewis and family. All need have no fear in giving them a share of their patronage, as Mrs. Lewis has few equals as a hotel hostess. Heated bedrooms furnished if desired without extra expense.

A first-class LIVERY is still being run by me in connection with hotel.

Will meet passengers at Wisharts and other points with team upon delivery by writing or phoning direct to hotel.

Will convey two or more passengers from Bloomtown to Wisharts for 25 cents each, or from Wisharts to Bloomtown same rate.

Harry T. White,

BLOOMTOWN, VA.

To The Public

We are in a position to furnish you with almost everything in the

HARDWARE LINE

that the trade demands, such as STOVES AND REPAIRS, PUMPS, and Pipe, Mechanics tools, Farming Implements, and many other things too numerous to mention.

Pump driving, Tin roofing and Repairing, Specialties.

All orders promptly filled and at fair prices.

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5,000 have been sold in Virginia within the past 35 years. Call and see them or write for Catalogue. Pianos sold at factory prices and on easy terms. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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Having secured the services of a first-class MILLINER we are prepared to serve our patrons in the most artistic manner. Don't fail to see our LACES and EMBROIDERY.

M. A. McGrath & Co.,

MAIN ST., ONANCOCK, VA.

Announcement

We are now prepared for you for the SPRING and SUMMER, after visiting all the markets and purchasing good merchandise for all our departments.

CLOTHING! CLOTHING! CLOTHING!

In this department we are well-known, and as usual have the largest assortment ever brought down here. Among all the new things we have the Sporty Brown Suits, and all the latest styles for all ages, at very reasonable prices.

SHOES, HATS AND GENTS FURNISHINGS

has been very carefully looked after and can show you anything. Hats made in the respective lines.

DRY GOODS AND LADIES SHOES AND OXFORDS.

We have a large line and can save you good money on them.

We also have a big line of MATTING. Prices that was never heard of. Call and see us before making your SPRING purchases.

Yours truly

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—The Busy Corner—

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LIKES, Berwanger & Co. are the Foremost Clothiers of Baltimore

Crisfield Ice Cream Co.,

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Plain and Fancy Cream, Water Ices,

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Near Ice Plant. Crisfield, Md.

The plant of the F. W. Shivers Co. having been purchased and added to that of the Crisfield Ice Cream Co. gives us capacity of 1,000 gallons daily.

The new plant now in operation and all orders will be filled promptly.

Can ship by Express to any station or by steamer to any wharf on Peninsula.

Carroll Crockett, Manager,

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E. W. POLK,

—Formerly of — POLK & BENSON—

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Will visit Accomac C. H., every court day.

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To prevent sickness and enjoy the comforts of life you should equip your sleeping apartment or dressing chamber with a snowy white, one-piece "Standard" Porcelain Enamelled Lavatory and have running hot and cold water as desired at your touch.

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